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HUMAN ORDURE,

BOTANICALLY *consider'd.*

[Price Six Pence.]

HUMAN ORDURE

BOTANICALLY considered.

The First Essay, of the kind, Ever
Published in the W O R L D.

HUMAN ORDURE

By Dr. S. — —

From a Manuscript, found in the
Library of the Royal Society, London.
Corrected, & printed, by the Author.

Let not the Humility of the Subject lessen Attention.
Lord Bacon.
The Way to Elegance of Style, is to simplify the Pen upon
every Subject, and the more trivial and low it is, the
more plain must be allowed for same.
Johnson.



Printed at DUBLIN:
And Reprinted at London, for E. Cogan at the
Middle Temple-Gate in Fleetstreet. 1733.
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By Dr. S-----T.

*What infinite Varieties have sprung,
From a well-cultivated Mass of Dung?*

Cornel. Agricol. Translat.

Let not the Humility of the Subject lessen Attention.

Lord Bacon.

*The Way to Elegance of Stile, is 'to employ the Pen upon
every Errand; and the more trivial and dry it is, the
more Brains must be allowed for Sauce.*

Osborn.



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HUMAN ORDER



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Botanically Considered

HERE is certainly no
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the





HUMAN ORDURE,

Botanically Considered.

THERE is certainly no happiness in this Life, that can possibly equal Leisure and Retirement; for a Man in this State, has it in his Power to exercise all his intellectual Faculties, with the utmost freedom and satisfaction, as well upon the meanest and humblest Subjects, as upon the most sublime and exalted Ideas; I should compare him to the Poet who writes in Blank, whose noble unconfin'd Thoughts are not limited by that childish harmonious Prison called Rhyme, by which I wou'd be understood to mean those People who chime sympathetically, as it were, with
the

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the absurdities and narrownesses of the rest of their ill-judging Fellow-Creatures. But the generous Retired blank Philosopher exercises the Talents of a free-will, unenvy'd and unadmir'd. Surely Seneca's * Observation is both Wise and Just.

*Qui notus nimis omnibus,
Ignotus moritur sibi.*

And the only sure way for a Man of Sense to avoid the *nimis notus*, and to enjoy and know himself thoroughly, is in an agreeable Retirement, free from the officious Impertinences of a promiscuous Society; this wise Apophthegm has made me an intire Votary to Solitude, where I have enjoyed for some time past an uninterrupted Variety of Speculations.

But there has none employed my Thoughts of late so much, as a very nice inquisition, or inspection, into the frequent differences we meet with in Human Ordure. The World may say, perhaps, I had very little to do, and that so

* *Trag. Thyast. act. 2.*

solemn and serious a Preface, ill became so foul a Subject; but let what will be said, I can't help communicating my Sentiments, but will endeavour to wrap 'em up in as cleanly a manner, as the dirtiness of the Theme will admit.

'Tis an Aphorism in Physick * *Sedes Sanorum oportet esse figuratas*, that is, That the Excrements of People in full Health ought to be figured. For my part, I shan't confine my self to any physical Meanings or Explanations of this Maxim, but shall candidly give my own Observations on the Subject.

There is no Man that ever was so humble as to observe Human Ordure, but must confess there is a wonderful variety in all productions of this nature. I intirely exclude the *Fæces Colliquativæ* (called in English by the figure Onomatopœia, *Squitter*,) being seldom the *Sedes Sanorum*, and therefore foreign to the Subject. For my part, I have found such a variety, that I have Trib'd and Class'd them, with as

* D. Sennert. Cap. de Excretis & retent.

much

much pleasure and care as Botanists do
Plants.

And the first of the Tribe that claims
precedence, is the * *Merda Campanula-
ta* five *Turbinata*, the Bell-form'd Ex-
crements, or resembling a Boy's Top
revers'd; the distinguishing Character-
istick of this kind of Evacuation, is,
that it rises with a broad Basis, and
terminates with a narrow Apex; under
this denomination is comprehended,
those form'd like an Obelisk, Cheshire-
Hat, Sugar-Loaf, inverted Pyramid, Por-
tugal Pear, &c. These are always of
a firm consistency, the product of a
well concocted Aliment, and are al-
ways generated in a robust strong Bo-
dy, and give us sure indications of a
firm well-ton'd set of Intestines, with
a salubrious attraction of the Lacteal
Vessels; to be met with mostly in
Plow'd Fields, High Roads, and some-
times in Meadows; I have seen some
faint Icons of this Species about the
suburbs of Cities; these generally be-
long to Farmers, Plowmen, Threshers,
&c. I have not had time to inquire

* Vid. Dr. Stephens's *botanical Elements*, pag. 13.

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into the Virtues or Vices of these, or
any of the kinds I have met with, but
that must be my next Work, accord-
ing as this meets with Encourage-
ment.

The next Tribe are, the *Merda* *
Dolioloides, or Tun-form'd Excrements,
these are generally thick in the middle,
and small at both extremities, like a
Rolling-pin or Wooden Cat, these be-
ing exactly divided in the middle, are
converted into a Species of the former
Tribe.

These are of as firm a Consistency
as the *Companulatae*, but don't seem to
be so naturally colour'd; but whether
this be a fault in the first, second, or
third Concoction, I leave to the deci-
sion of the Curious; these kinds are
usually to be met with about Cities,
and sometimes in the Country; they
are much larger in *England* than here,
and larger again in *Holland*: I remem-
ber about four Years ago, I was walk-
ing with an *English* Merchant, in a
Field near the Town of *Antwerp*, where
I spied one of these *Tun-form'd Affairs*

See farther into the Botanical Elements, p. 14.

lying by a Ditch-side, and I being a stranger in the Country, took it for a small *Runlet of Brandy*, and wou'd certainly have b----t my self with eagerness to seize it before my Friend, had he not undeceiv'd me, by laughing heartily, and asking, what the D--- I was going to do with the *Afgang* or *Stront* of a *Dutchman*. I must own I never was more deceiv'd nor ashamed in my Life, but nothing certainly ever more resembled the thing I took it for, than it did; its shape and colour so regular, and its bulk equivalent to a Keg of about three Quarts measure, and the * *Valvulae Conniventes* of the *intestinum Colon* had made circular impressions on both extremities, that exactly resembled *Hoops*; and what was more particular, there was the Stone of some Fruit voided with the Excrement, which lay *à propos* in the center of the thicker part, and exactly resembled a *Bung*, so that really after all 'twas a very natural mistake; but what surpriz'd me more, was, considering the diameter of this monstrous Evacuation, how

* Vid. Dr. Willis, Bartholin. Verhyen, &c. de intestinis.

'twas possible an human * *Rectum* cou'd contain it, but afterwards I saw larger, and the frequency in a great measure abated my surprize, and considering the Frame of the *Dutch* in general about the Hipps, or *Ossa inominata*, Os *Sacrum*, *Coxigis*, &c. where the straight Gut terminates, 'tis no great wonder they shou'd have such gigante Stools: I have often in dark Nights stumbl'd over some of them.

N. B. 'Twas upon this comely Species of Evacuation, that the munificent *King James the First* confirmed the Honour of *Knighthood* †.

The Third Class or Tribe are the *Merda variegatae, sive marmoratae*, the Marbl'd or Strip'd Excrement; 'tis really diverting to see how Nature sports in the production of this kind of *Fæces*, as to the shape they may participate of the two former, but have not half the solidity or consistency; I have seen some white, bluish, and brown, others yellow, orange, and gray, and all in the same Excretion; these are

* The Arse-Gut or *intestinum rectum*.

† Vide *Gabriel Benzoar's Remarkable Transactions of the Kings of England since W. the Conqueror*, page 102.

properly the *variegata*, but the *marmorata*, tho' of the same Tribe, yet their distinguishing Characteristicks are different, for their variations chiefly depend on sanguiferous streaks, and specks, and lines of a different colour'd Choler or Bile, marbling as it were the Fæces: The former Species of this Tribe proceed either from Meats of different kinds or consistency eaten the same Day, or from Drinks of different colours, taken after, which generally tinge some parts of the Excrement with a colour some way or other analagous to what was originally taken in. (Claret-Drinkers always have costive dark reddish stools, and as costiveness was looked upon to be beneficial to Men in Years, upon this account 'twas ordered to old Men by * two of the greatest Philosophers of the Faculty in their Days. But this by the by.)

The latter Species of this Tribe proceeds either from overstraining, which occasions perhaps a Rupture of some minute intestinal Vessel, which spills its contents upon this kind of Fæces

* Hippocrates and Galen:

in streaks, or perhaps from a tincture of the Gaul in the *intestinum Duodenum*, or it may be from an accidental mixture of an *Atra bilis* with the *Fæces* in the circuit of the Guts; but happen as it will, I have been strangely diverted with the variety of Figures that those Meandrous variegated streaks have produc'd; I have often fancy'd I have seen as whimsical Landskips as the hand of Art could possibly depict; at other times I have actually and distinctly read unintelligible words formed by those irregular party-coloured streaks, which makes me believe, 'twas by the assistance of those Species of *Fæces* that † *Zid Benzool* the famous Persian Soothsayer used to prophesy, and not only foretel the death of particular Personages, but also the fate of Cities, Provinces, Kingdoms, &c. There is a very authentick Tradition that says, (this *Zid Benzool* foretold the death of the Governor of *Susa*, (*Anno* 1662) by some extraordinary Hieroglyphick he saw in his Excrement, three Days before he was

† *Sid Benzool* or *Siddy*, died at *Ispahan* *Anno* 1694. Some say he was burned at *Amanzarifdin* for Sorcery.

killed by the random shot of an Arrow : This way of Divination, I think, bears some Analogy to that of the Ancients, who used to prophesy by the Viscera or Entrails of Beasts, Birds, and Men after Death; and indeed the Divination by † *Ob* or *Pitbonissa* was only by Answers given from the *Viscera*, when in their proper situation, and the subject alive.

But why this way of Fortune-telling by *Fæces* has not been handed down to Posterity, and been better known amongst us, certainly must proceed from the uncleanness and filthiness of the Subject by which we are to form our predictions, tho' there is a method of Fortune-telling even amongst us now, that bears some resemblance to that of the *Persians*, practised mostly by a Sect of People calling themselves *Ægyptians*, or *Gypsies*, and that is, by the *Fæces* of Coffee, from thence calling themselves *Coffee-Tossers*; but as 'tis now practised 'tis a meer Cheat.

† Vide Selden de diis Syris Syntagmat. 2. Plutarch in Patin, &c.

I remember to have been told an odd Story of one * T — S — Esq; a Justice of the Peace in *Devonshire*, a Man of great Wealth and Immorality, who was remarkable for voiding always those *Fæces Striatæ*, one Morning having occasion to ease Nature in a Field, and having done, died of an Apoplectick Fit before he had time to pull up his Breeches; his Friends missing him, after some search found him lying by his *Fæces*, and the Word *Cave*, writ in the manner express'd, upon his Excrement in sanguineous Characters, and they that were Scholars in Company said, 'twas an admonition from *Ob* or the *Lares* of his Excrement, to take care he should be decently buried, seeing he was a remarkable Man in his Country: But my Author fancies this was a misinterpretation of the meaning of the Word, for 'twas designed no doubt (said he) for a warning to the Gentleman himself; and he believed had his Excrements been inspected into before, the same Phænomenon might have happened, and the Man

* Vid. Verftegan de Terriculamentis, &c. page 102.
might

might have either escaped or have been better prepared, had he fortunately looked about him; but this is but a conjecture. And indeed that very action of *turning about* to see what's voided, which most People do, (that have not the opportunity of modest necessary Conveniencies) which I used to take to be nothing more than a natural Mechanical motion, I believe intirely proceeds from some confus'd Ideas or hints of this nature, scattered amongst Mankind.

The Fourth Tribe of Excrements are the *Merdae umbelliferae*, take the Description.

This kind are a broad round *Fæces*, lying spread upon the Ground, like an Umbrella or full blown Rose, the colour uncertain; they are of a tolerable consistency, but don't come nigh the solidity of any of the former, but yet are firm and uniform: It was this kind of Excrement that both *Hippocrates* and after him *Celsus* said indicated the best state of Health, and were always the most beneficial to young People, and always the consequence of a regular temperate method of Living; † *Hel-*

† Cap. de Diæta page 56.

mont says, They who have those kind of Evacuations, have always a free use of their perspiratory Pores, and a fine thin Skin, but a constipated Belly makes a thick Skin.

'Tis upon this Species of Excrement that the innumerable minute grayish *Fungi* like Down, always grow, vulgarly called *Mould*. I have for some Hours wonderfully amus'd myself by looking at those tender *Vibrissæ*, and have discovered by the help of Microscopes, the most regular Vegetation, that cou'd possibly be performed by a Chymist after the nicest process for the transmutation of Metals; nay, I have perceived the very motion of their rising, tho' by many degrees slower than the minute Hand of a Watch; for if we consider the quickness of their growth and the shortness of their duration, when grown, (for 'tis remarkable all *Fungi* grow and decay speedily) a Minute to them in proportion to their size and duration, is equivalent to a Year's growth with other larger Vegetables; and considering they are produced from their native hot Bed, and spring so suddenly, it ought not to seem improbable, that one may

C

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perceive, by the help of Glasses, their Vegetative motion.

The ingenious Mr. † *Laurence* in his Treatise of Horticulture, tells us of a method of raising Purslain from an hot Bed, that in an Hour's time should be fit to eat: and certainly the motion here must be perceivable to the naked Eye.

I have often with pleasure fancied I cou'd discern upon one of those *Fæces* over-grown with *Fungi*, the rude lineaments of Gardens, Wildernesſes, Eſpalliers, Groves, Orchards, Flower-knots, Edgings, &c. and have frequently lent my Glasses to those of my Friends who would venture their Noses so nigh, who have viewed those *Lusus Naturæ*, with as much pleasure and surprize as my self; I have frequently with a very nice *Forceps*, pluck'd up one of those fungous Fibres, and cou'd plainly perceive always a small atom annex'd to the lower extremity, which I take to be the Root of the *Fungus*; and I have frequently gathered Numbers of

* Page 84.

them,

them, and endavoured to analize them for my own satisfaction, to know what they really were, but I never prospered in the Event; however, the most rational conjecture that can be made, is, That they certainly are the minute Seeds of some Fruit or Vegetable, that have been swallowed and pass off with the Excrement, and so have a momentary Vegetation afterwards: And here I can't but observe how often we are indebted to accidents of this nature, for several sorts of Fruit Trees, that are found wild, and supposed either by chance or design, to have been tossed out of Gardens, or Seeds scattered abroad by the Wind, or else to have had their first rudiments laid there since the Creation or the Flood, such Fruits as Cherries, Apples, Raspberries, Plumbs, &c. when perhaps they owe their birth to a T——d: 'Tis certainly a common Custom in *England* of eminent Gardeners who propose to propagate choice Stone Fruit, to give a quantity of them to Children to eat, provided they promise to swallow the Stones, and they constantly watch them till they go to Stool, to pick them out; and this they aver to be the most natural and nicest

preparation, before they enter them ; for they never fail, being treated in this manner, to come to the greatest perfection.

M. * *Scharzini*, an *Italian*, in his Account of the *Isle of Cyprus*, tells us there is a particular part in the West of the Island so overgrown with Cherry-Trees, that they take up nigh three hundred Acres of Land, and nothing can look more beautiful in the Season, than the innumerable variety or chequer Work Nature produces by the multiplicity of black and red Cherries, but the latter colour so predominates over the former, that Strangers, when at a distance, fancy they see the *Mare Erythraeum*, where *Pharaoh* and his Army perished: He farther says, this immense Wilderness of Cherry-Trees, is intirely owing to a kind of Bird called a † *Matzer*, of which there is a prodigious Number in this part of the Island, exactly resembling our *Black-Bird*, only they have but one Foot consisting of ten Claws, who live wholly upon Cher-

* Page 96 of that Edition Printed at Rome Ann. 1702.

† Vid. Gesner hist. Animal.

ries, and always swallow the Stones, and when they void them, it being a moist Soil, they easily by their Vegetative gravity sink and take Root, and are always vastly prolifick. I doubt not but the small black Cherry cultivated in Gardens, and called a *Mazer* takes its Etymology from hence.

I am told there is a Plumb-Tree, called a *Green Gage*, at *Stow* in *England*, the Seat of the *Lord Cobham*, that constantly bears twelve or fourteen dozen of large, luscious, green Plumbs, every Season, that was raised from a Stone taken out of a *French* Marquis's Excrement, who was a remarkable Epicure: Any Man that wou'd eat three or four of these Plumbs, in about an Hour after, wou'd be so prone to Leaping, Skipping, Cutting Capers, and Coopees, and so apt to make Love to every Female that came in the way, that People wou'd think he was mad, and that the Plumbs had a particular intoxicating quality in their Juice like the * *Mala insana*, so that People only taste, but never swallow them. Indeed I am apt

* Vid. Ray *hist. Plantar.*

to believe, that the Stone in passing thro' the *Ragoo's* Guts, must have been impregnated with some of his alert Animal Juices. But this Account favours much of a Romance, if otherwise, How great a loss and misfortune was it to the Learned World in general, that * *Anacreon* had such a treacherous and ill-contrived *Epiglottis*? What a glorious poetick inspiring Grape have we lost: And to come nigher home, What a Law inspiring Cherry-Tree have we lost, by the fatal Mæandrings of *Y* — *N* — 's intestines? These hints I think ought to encourage our Botanists, and curious Gardeners, to search closely into this ingeniously odd way of propagating.

The Fifth Tribe, are the *Merda Sphærolatæ*, five *Balanoides*, the Button formed Excrement; there are two Species of this Tribe, the first are those voided in small, firm, round, distinct Balls, Buttons, or Bullets; the second are those kind of Buttons conglomerate, or joined so close and compact together,

* He was an old Amorous Lyrick Poet, very fond of a young Man called Bathyllus. He was choaked with a Grapes Stone. Vid. Plin.

as to form, at first sight, one large solid Excrement, but upon a closer Scrutiny they lie *racematim* or *spicatum*, like an Ear of *Indian* Wheat, and may as easily be separated, if any one wou'd undertake the Work.

I have observed these Species to flourish mostly about Colleges, Schools, and most Places of publick Education, as well as in and about Prisons, Jails, and all places of Confinement and Chastisement; and here I can't but observe how just that common *English* Phrase is, when a Man is under any Terrors or Apprehensions, of saying such a Man is *making Buttons*.

* I must beg leave here to make a short Digression, and inquire into the meaning of this Aphoristical way of Speaking; and first, as I have already hinted, Fear is the supposed Author, and therefore we must know in what manner Fear acts upon an Human Body.

Anatomists say, That Fear and Joy have the *same* effect upon the Muscular Fibres, and actuate, in the *same* man-

* *An Episode upon the word making Buttons.*

ner, that is, by relaxing the Fibres, and particularly those circular ones of the *Sphincters*, and of consequence there must be an involuntary effusion of whatsoever those *Sphincters* are appropriated to contain, whether of Sweat, (for we'll suppose something equivalent to a *Sphincter* even to every Pore) Urine, Stool, &c. but particularly of this last. Now a Man under the Fear of some imminent Danger, (according to our Hypothesis) every time he thinks of it, must have one of these involuntary Relaxations, perhaps twenty times in a Day, or oftner, and of consequence this must produce a *Bit* or *Button* of Excrement; and thus the otherwise large, regular, and natural Stool, is subdivided into twenty in miniature, in one Day. And this I take to be the true meaning of the word *making Buttons*.

* I remember to have read in an History of the Revolutions of *Europe*, of a Battle fought at the Foot of Mount *Heckla* in *Iceland*, and one of the Antagonist Armies wanting Ball, made use

* Vid. Vertot. page 1065.

of these *Fæces Balanoides*, to load their Musquets withal; their Fears still supplying them with such kind of Ammunition; and tho' the World may think that they made but a Show of Fight, yet they intirely discomfited their Enemies, partly by the unfavoury smell, and partly by the scattering and comminution of the Excrementitious Bullets, which almost blinded them; and this I believe was the first time Fear was ever known to gain a Victory.

I have been told by experienced Engineers, that the Inventors of Stink-Poss, took their first hint from this remarkable Battle, only with the addition of some few more slaughtering Materials.

This kind of Excrement in Dogs, is called *Album Græcum*, so remarkably good for sore Throats, and for cleansing Linen.

Horses mostly void this Species of Excrement; and some say 'tis of this kind in Cats, whereof the Musk and Civer proceed.

Here I beg leave to give the World not only a very useful but a very wholesome hint, because 'tis best known, by

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'Tis no easy matter for one to say, justly, when he has done Stool, for tho' a Person in full Health may have made a very plentiful Dejection, yet it often happens that he may not be so perfectly satisfied or easy as might be expected from such a kind of an Evacuation; and this, I take to be the Diagnostick Symptom, by which we may judge there still remains some fragment in the Gut to be voided, which by its weight upon the *Sphincter* of the Gut, may occasion what Physicians call a *Tenesmus* or *Needing*; but the sure prognostick by which we may be certain that the business is done compleatly, is, By a certain *Sphaenoid* or *Wedgelike bit* of Excrement, that generally slips out after all, the shape of it shews (being very thin towards the Gut) that there is an exact and regular closure or coincidence of the Gut and its *Sphincter*; you may very often observe this shaped morsel of *Fæces*, mounted at the top of a plentiful solid Stool, like a *Dilliputian Grenadier's Cap*, and this you may assure yourself of, that whoever Evacuates in this manner has finished his Stool compleatly. I have often heard Physicians

cians say, that if a Man Urined after his *Fæces* were voided, 'twas a sure sign there was none left behind, there being an exact and nice consent or harmony between the two *Sphincters*, viz. of the *Vesica Urinaria*, and of the *Rectum*; but this opinion I am told is quite exploded, as not at all to be depended upon. But to hasten to our sixth and last Tribe of *Fæces*, which are the

Merde Anomalæ or irregular Excrements, which are not reducible to any one certain shape, but resemble sundry and various Figures; what I have observed them mostly to resemble I have summed up under the following Heads, viz. *Topknots*, *Peepers*, *Cawls*, *Lappets*, *Pinnners*, *Breast-knots*, *Shoe-strings*, *Robes*, *Beau-dashes*, *To my Love*, and *from my Love*, &c. And these I have remark'd are, for the most part, voided by Milliners, Quilters, Seamstresses, Mantua-makers, and Servant-maids. Another Species of this Tribe, are in the form of *Letters* in all *Languages*, such as *Greek*, *Latin*, *Hebrew*, *Arabic*, *Persian*, *Syriac*, *Chaldean*, &c. These are mostly voided by School-Masters, Writing-Masters, Lawyers, Language-Masters, Physicians, and Learned Divines.

The Third Species of this Tribe are those resembling *Lines, Curves, Rectangles, Triangles, Quadrangles, Iſosceles-Triangles, Perpendiculars, Squares, Cubes, &c.* with variety of other Figures in the Mathematics; These I have observed, are generally voided by Astronomers, Geographers, Mathematicians, Almanack-makers, Fencing-masters, Dancing-masters, Riding-masters, and W----masters.

I was acquainted with a very worthy Gentleman, a Mathematician in *Edinburgh*, who in the whole course of his Life never S----t out of the form of an Iſosceles-Triangle, excepting when he had a Looseness, and even then, he told me, it generally run into the form of a Pentagon.

Daniel Bournbeck, the famous *Dutch* Fencing-master, told all his Scholars (from one of whom I had the Story) that his *Fæces* always came from him in one solid straight line, but when it touched the Ground it broke exactly in the middle, and divided into two; and the extremities of each falling across one another slanting, represented the most regular posture of the crossing of two Foils or Rapiers, at the first onset or meeting.

Mynbeer

Mynbeer Van Hutton Professor of the Mathematicks at *Middleburgh* in *Zealand*, tells us himself in * his Life, that ever since he began to study that Elaborate Science intensely, he was always Costive in his Body, and whenever he went to Stool, he voided three pieces of Excrement that fell into the form of a Gnomon, and whenever he was the least indisposed there fell a fourth that made a regular Diagonal.

I have several Curious Instances of this Nature by me, that I have collected from Time to Time, besides some diverting and useful Remarks upon the *Fæces Colliquativæ*, which I shall publish very speedily, if this has any tolerable success in the World.

* See his *Prefatory Discourse* page 19. to his *Collect. Geomet.*

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New Conquests, and extend her haughty Reign?
Ten Thousand killing Airs not yet explor'd,
Does not the Snuff-Box to the Sex afford?
Her Taper Fingers tap the gay Machine,
How many Charms are in that instant seen?
The Fragrant Atoms as her Hand conveys,
Its ruddy Hue, her glossy Balm displays,
Her polish'd Arm reflects a lovely White,
And the bright Diamond spills its Drop of Light.



